

Sri Chinmoy: You have just heard our best singers sing. Now our youngest singers will sing a song which I have just written about your country. I am dedicating the song to you, the beloved son of Malta.

Young singers sing Sri Chinmoy's song on Malta.



MALTA



Mal-ta, _____ O su-per-pow-----ers'



fond-ness -nest. _____



You bring to the fore _____ ev-'ry nation's ve-ry



best. _____



In you the world-faiths have found their one-ness -



choice. _____



In a small-ness - bo-----dy, earth - il-lu-----mi-----na-----tion -



voice. _____

Malta, O super-powers' fondness-nest.

You bring to the fore every nation's very best.

In you the world-faiths have found their oneness-choice.

In a smallness-body, earth-illumination-voice.

—Sri Chinmoy



Professor de Marco: Sri Chinmoy and dear, dear friends, little would I have thought when just a year ago or so I took over the Presidency of the General Assembly, that this year would be such an interesting year, a year of such changes, a year also of such difficulties. But another thing happened this year. I got to know you, and this was simply not in my programme. It was not in my programme because I had no knowledge of this Peace Meditation Group within the United Nations, which at the inspiration of Sri Chinmoy has been working so hard for many years.



Your mission is the power of the spirit. No matter the changes in society, no matter the changes in the international scenario, no matter all the things which make yesterday not like today and today nothing like tomorrow, yet there is something which is permanent. And this is the power of the spirit, the power of the inner self.

I think that Sri Chinmoy and all of you here are trying to bring out a sense of permanence in humanity, the humanity which, in spite of all the apparent changes, can only realise itself due to the inner power, the power of the spirit. This I think is the essence of what humanity, after all, is all about.

Mention was made of my visits abroad as President. I did them with a purpose. The purpose was to give to our United Nations its proper dimension. It is primarily the United Nations function of bringing together politicians, bringing together statesmen and bringing together ambassadors which is very important. But what is the real purpose of this bringing together? Just for the sake of meeting? It is always nice. Just for the sake of exchanging views, the cross-fertilisation of ideas? That is very excellent. But I think that the very purpose of all this meeting should be something different. A different approach to my view is: where is humanity going, what is leading us, what is leading us to what? And here I believe that your Peace Meditation meetings are so very important, because when we speak of peace, it is not merely the absence of war. It is bringing peace to those who are



poor in spirit. That, I think, is fundamental if we really want to understand what peace is all about.

We think so much about the material things in life, and quite rightly so, because matter is also part of the essence of our existence. It would be a mistake to ignore this. You realise this even more when you see persons suffering. Suffering humanity is one of those great contradictions. We can not understand why there should be a suffering humanity. And yet the suffering humanity involves more than the majority of all beings on this planet.

Sometimes I refer to my visits to Ethiopia where you see hunger everywhere. And you think, "How can it be?" We speak in Europe about the melting of mountains of butter. We speak in the United States of

the dumping of vegetables, cereals and all those sorts of items, just to stabilise prices. Then we see that there is a humanity which not only faces hunger but also is dying of hunger. This is what we cannot understand—this contradiction in humanity. While most people are very kind and very good, most people follow what we in criminal law refer to as willfully shutting one's eyes. And many willfully shut their eyes to these stark realities of life on our planet. This is where the power of the spirit is needed.

I want to thank you for this prize inspired by that great Secretary-General U Thant, who realised and who taught us the great power of the spirit in our day-to-day affairs. I think, Sri Chinmoy, you've been trying during these years in your own style, through your own perception, to bring a sense of peace to a metropolis which has such contradictions in poverty and in riches, in generosity and in cruelty, in oneness and in separateness. It is this sense of mission which you, Sri Chinmoy, have inspired in this group of United Nations workers.

And I'm using the word 'workers' for a purpose. There is nothing socialist behind it, but I do not like to use the word 'employees'. It's not your employment which matters so much as the fact that you are working together to make the United Nations more effective, more efficient and more relevant. To this subject I have also given emphasis during my presidency. We have to be more relevant, not only more efficient.

There is nothing worse than being efficiently irrelevant. Better at least to be inefficient and relevant rather than to be efficiently irrelevant.

We are all working at the United Nations to make it a relevant United Nations which looks at the forgotten part of humanity and makes it its own; a United Nations which believes that peace is not just the absence of war; a United Nations, finally, which believes in the power of the spirit.

Sri Chinmoy, may I thank you so much for giving me this great opportunity to get to know you and also to know those who are working with you, trying through their meditation and their meetings to bring the power of the spirit to our dear United Nations. Thank you so much.



Sri Chinmoy: Most soulfully and most devotedly we are receiving your blessingful message, which is flooded with light. We shall always treasure your blessingful presence and your illumining message. We shall always carry your heart of sleepless self-giving in the very depths of our own gratitude-hearts.



INFORMAL REMARKS

After the award presentation, a short video was shown of the Sri Chinmoy Oneness-Home Peace Run, a biennial international torch relay, and Professor de Marco and Sri Chinmoy spoke informally.



Excerpts from their conversation follow.

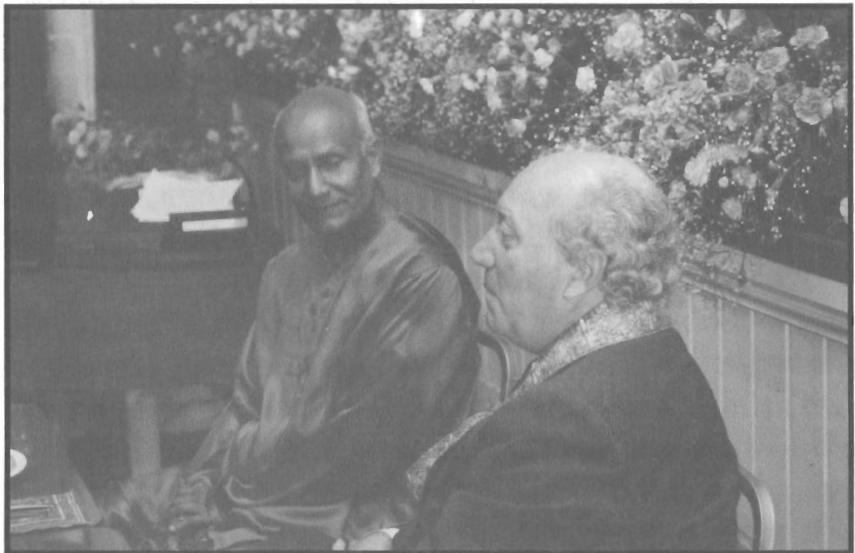
Sri Chinmoy: This year our Peace Run went through Poland, Hungary and the USSR, as well as many other places which are not shown on this video.



Professor de Marco: What new openings are happening in the world! I was in Moscow, as you know, and the only thing prohibited today in the Soviet Union is the Communist Party. For 70 years all these concepts interpreted for many parts of the world a monolithic approach towards power and ideology. Now all of a sudden all this is something which seems to be—I cannot be categorical—something of the past. And now one moves about in Poland or in the Ukraine as if what happened is something which one already has to speak of in terms of the remote past. This is something which is unbelievable!

And again, as you said, Sri Chinmoy, it is the power of the spirit. Yet who would have thought of all this taking place in our own lifetime? We had learned to accept that Germany was going to be divided in two, that Berlin was going to be a divided city. We almost took it for granted that this was the reality of the situation.

What we are finding so difficult, Sri Chinmoy, if this was a miracle, is to make another miracle: to eliminate poverty. This is something which really baffles me; it humiliates me, to tell you the truth. I think we need to pray a bit more, because we have to realise that our human powers themselves are also limited. The concept of the Almighty also has to be seen within this sense.



Sometimes we think that we can do everything with our own hands or with our own brain. But I think that this is in actual fact an illusion. On the one hand, there are things which we *can* do. We cannot take the approach of predestination, because it would eliminate the human element, the decision-making process of mankind. On the other hand, we have to think that man's actions have to be supplemented and sometimes directed by an Almighty Spirit who looks after us. This is the best approach.

Mr. Keefe: It sounds like the philosophy that Sri Chinmoy is teaching us, that we have to try to be instruments of this higher force. We have to use everything we have, but if we are not instruments, how do we know what to do?

Professor de Marco: Yes, you are perfectly right. I think this is the whole purpose of the exercise. We used to be taught in college that you have to act as if you are never going to die, and you have to live as if you are going to die the next instant. So the purpose of this seemingly contradictory approach is to look at yourself as forming part of something which is much greater than us all, and at the same time in no way to inhibit what every single person can give.

This also is brought out, Sri Chinmoy, in your poems which I have been reading lately, as well as the concept of oneness, of a common home. We in politics are changing the concept of oneness for Europe, saying

the “*maison commun*”, which is so true. But in actual fact there is a *maison* which is even more *commun* for all of us, and that is the world. This is our true *maison commun*.

Sri Chinmoy: Do you feel that another war is imminent, or is there no such possibility?

Professor de Marco: I think there will be a lot of small problems. But thanks to the fact that the Soviet Union has seen a Gorbachev, I think that all conflicts will be restrained. In your book you brought out that not only has the Soviet Union seen a Gorbachev but also the world has seen a Gorbachev. I think that this is the greatest blessing that we have received.

The real danger, as I see it, Sri Chinmoy, comes from the problem of the great economic disparities in the world. I don't think this will be a great problem even for my children. The poor will still be very poor, and hunger debilitates a person. But at that future time when the poor will be slightly less poor and slightly less hungry, if they see no prospects for the future, then you will have a greater war. This will happen in so many countries, unless this matter is looked into now. I have always been concerned about this issue, because then it will be a great security and peace risk. Of course, we have to address this issue not because it is a security and peace risk for the future, but because it is right. But I feel that this could be a cause of great conflict unless we look at it and do something now.

Sri Chinmoy: I feel that the satisfaction of the heart and the satisfaction in the heart must come first. Then the satisfaction of the mind and the satisfaction in the mind should take place. Our hearts are not happy and not satisfied. That is why we are all the time finding fault with others, correcting others and trying to perfect others. If we were satisfied deep within, then easily we would be able to solve the problems in the mind. Unfortunately, all the problems that we are facing today arise from the mind, and the mind is trying to solve them. But this is not possible. There has to be a higher power to intercede.

If I am suffering from a headache or some disease, I need a doctor to cure me. Whether or not I am responsible for my illness, God alone knows; but for some reason I am now suffering, let us say. So I need someone to come and treat me. In the case of world problems, we have to know that the mind has created these problems and the mind is also suffering from them. So there is a need for someone to come and treat the mind. In this case, I think the heart has to be the doctor. Once the heart is allowed to play its role, then the misunderstandings and conflicts of the world will be lessened. We can't say that the world will be all illumined, but to a great extent its sufferings will be diminished.

Professor de Marco: I think you are right. This is the great lesson of love from Buddha, from Christ, from Mohammed. Christ would say, "Love thy neighbour as thyself," and this is a great message. But

perhaps even in Christianity, what really brought in a difference was when he said, "Love thine enemy." This was, I think, the greatest of revolutions, because you can love your neighbour as yourself, and it is very important. But to love your enemy goes against the grain, against normal human reactions. And that is, I believe, the real message. If you can arrive at that state where you love your enemy also, then you can reach a state where there will be no enemies.

Sri Chinmoy: When we try outwardly to tell someone that we have a solution to some problem that we disagree on, or that we have something to offer, he immediately revolts. Everybody wants to enjoy freedom in his own way. But if we can offer him light through our prayer and meditation, then he will come to see the truth in the same way that we see it. So the inner illumination must come first. Then there will be no conflicts, and no one will be anybody's enemy.

An enemy is someone who is not aware of his own vastness and of his own oneness with us. He has not embraced the whole world as his own. Since he does not feel that he is part and parcel of the entire world, he has created a division between himself and us. Through our prayers and meditations, if somehow we can make him feel that he is also a member of the world community, then he will not see us as his enemy, and we will not see him as our enemy. At that time, we are not strangers but part of the same universal reality. So we should always regard an

enemy as part of our reality and world. Otherwise, he will always remain an enemy.

An enemy is not only someone who is trying to kill us or destroy us. An enemy can also take the form of poverty, sickness, illness and misunderstanding. Misunderstanding, I feel, is our worst enemy; we don't understand each other. But if we love each other and become one, then the question of misunderstanding does not arise.

So we can solve these problems by loving others in spite of their weaknesses and shortcomings. Also, through prayer and meditation we can secretly and sacredly offer illumination to the persons or the nations that right now are our enemies.

Professor de Marco: I think these are words of great wisdom that you have said, Sri Chinmoy. I think this is the essence of how humanity has to look at itself. We sometimes think that with our brains we can solve everything. Brains do solve a lot of things, but certainly not everything. Brains can create great scientific achievements. Brains can create the masterpieces of literature, the satisfaction of paintings and all these things. But they cannot create an inner peace, and this, as you pointed out, has to come from the heart, if we are to have a sense of belonging to humanity.

This suffering humanity perhaps is the humanity which has to have our primary concern. The enemy is

not even a person or persons, but the enemy is poverty, the enemy is starvation, the enemy is a situation where people sometimes become criminals. That, I think, is the real enemy that we all have to try and concern ourselves with.

We are reaching this through the Peace Meditation Group at the United Nations. I think this does help a lot. Not only does it help everyone who participates, but it radiates from this inner self also to others who come in contact with it. Thank you so much.



Sharing a light moment...

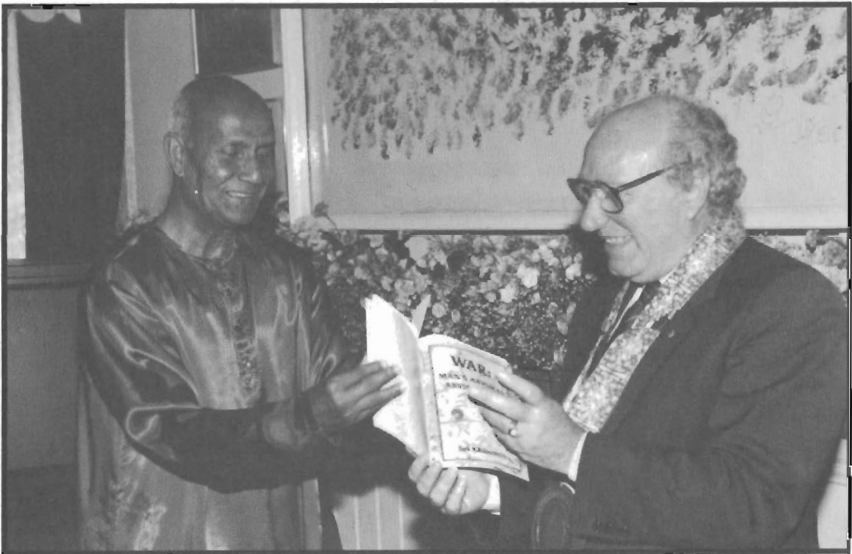


Sri Chinmoy presents a commemorative watch with Professor de Marco's picture on it.





Professor de Marco reads from Sri Chinmoy's book, War: Man's Abysmal Abyss.





Professor de Marco thanks the young singers.





Sri Chinmoy offers Professor de Marco's assistant, Mr. Walter Balzan, a token of the Meditation Group's appreciation as Ms. Diksha Arturi, Programme Coordinator, looks on.





About Sri Chinmoy and the Peace Meditation at the United Nations

In 1970 members of the United Nations community invited Sri Chinmoy to serve as leader of a meditation group which meets twice weekly at UN Headquarters to pray and meditate for world peace. Under Sri Chinmoy's guidance the scope of the group has expanded to include a wide variety of political, cultural and spiritual activities in service to the United Nations.

An international ambassador for peace, Sri Chinmoy has offered hundreds of free peace concerts worldwide, has written prolifically on peace, and has inspired biennial global peace runs. He has met with many religious and political leaders, such as Pope John Paul II and President Mikhail Gorbachev, to discuss the spiritual dimensions of the quest for world peace and to express support for UN principles.

THE TIMES

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1991

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DeMarco receives U Thant Peace award

By a Staff Reporter

The Foreign Minister, Prof. Guido de Marco, was presented in New York with the U Thant Peace Award by Sri Chinmoy, international ambassador of peace and leader of the peace meditation sessions at the United Nations since 1970.

The prize was offered in recognition of Prof. de Marco's "lifetime of devoted and illuminating service to his nation and to the world at large."

In keeping with the high ideals of the U Thant Peace Award, Prof. de Marco, the former president of the UN general assembly, was commended for blending his lofty vision of an interdependent and peace-loving world family with his dynamic action against poverty and for human dignity throughout the globe.

Members of the Peace Meditation Group sang songs by Sri Chinmoy in honour of Prof. de Marco.

Sri Chinmoy is expected to visit Malta with some 150 members of his peace organisation later this year.

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THE FACTS

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October 16, 1991

UN General Assembly President De Marco Honored With U Thant Peace Award



The Hon. Guido De Marco, Pres. of the UN General Assembly for 1990-91 and Deputy Prime Minister of Malta, was presented the U Thant Peace Award by Sri Chinmoy, international peace ambassador and leader of the peace meditation sessions at the United Nations since 1970.

In keeping with the high ideals of past UN President U Thant, the award cited Pres. De Marco for his "lifetime of devoted and illumining service to his nation and to the world at large" as a champion for the cause of human rights. He was also commended for his dynamic actions against poverty and for human dignity throughout the globe.

After Sri Chinmoy placed the peace medallion around his neck, Mr. De Marco eloquently responded: "I want to thank you...Sri Chinmoy, your peace meditation meetings at the United Nations are so very important because when we speak of peace, it is not merely the absence of war. It is bringing peace to those who are poor in spirit. You are bringing the power of the spirit within our dear United Nations."

Previous recipients of the U Thant Peace Award include UN Ambassador Zenon Rossides of Cyprus, former UN General Assembly Pres. Jorge Illueca, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Sufi Leader Pir Vilayat Khan and India's Secretary of External Affairs, Lakhman Mehrotra.

Sri Chinmoy is no stranger to Washington State. He has been conferred honorary distinguished citizen status in our State. In June over 5,000 attended his free concert for inner peace that he gave at Seattle's Memorial Stadium. Recently, he received a message from Gov. Booth Gardner on the occasion of his 60th birthday for having "helped increase humanity's awareness of the need for global cooperation."